Porters at **Sikar railway station**

679. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway authorities provide the red shirt/dress to all the licensed portes working in the various railway stations of the country;

(b) whether such dresses have not been provided to the licensed porters working in Sikar Railway Station of Rajasthan;

(c) whether in the absence of wheeled trollies, the porters have to carry heavy loads of luggages on their head in that station;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) steps contemplated by Government to improve the service conditions of the porters of Sikar Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The supply of uniform to licensed porters of Sikar Railway Station has last been made in July, 2003.

(c) and (d) Four trolleys are available at Sikar Railway Station.

(e) A number of welfare measures have been taken for the licensed porters. In addition to uniform, they have been made entitled for outdoor medical facilities in Railway Hospitals. They are also granted facilities of Railway pass and PTOs at periodical intervals and the children are permitted to be admitted to the Railway schools subject to availability of seats.

Rakes carrying coal to S.E. Railways

680. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of rakes made available to M/s. Singh Brothers during 2001-2002 and 2002-203 for carrying coal to Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Station from Birsinghpur Railway Station under S.E. Railways;

(b) whether amount of demurrage charges, if any , was claimed from the party, year-wise & amount;